



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

APR 20 2012

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A
Washington, D.C. 20426

Reference Docket Nos. CP11-56 -000 and PF10-17-000

Dear Ms. Bose:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the New Jersey-New York Expansion Project (CEQ 20120077). The proposed pipeline and appurtenances would be located in New Jersey and New York State and would deliver up to 800,000 dekatherms per day of natural gas to serve metropolitan New York and New Jersey, including a new direct pipeline connection to the Borough of Manhattan, New York. This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 7609, PL 91-604 12 (a), 84 Stat. 1709) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The proposed project would include construction and operation of 19.8 miles of new and replacement 42- and 30-inch diameter pipeline and abandonment of 8.95 miles of existing pipeline. Also included are the construction and operation of seven new metering and regulating (M&R) stations, modification of four existing compressor stations, installation of aboveground over-pressure protection regulation at two existing M&R stations, installation of three pig launchers and two pig receivers, relocation of four pig receivers and removal of two pig launchers, and the installation of four mainline and three tap valves along the proposed pipeline facilities.

Since the release of the DEIS in September 2001 the applicant, Texas Eastern, incorporated an additional twenty seven route variations into the originally proposed route. The FEIS updates the original analyses for these route changes. EPA concurs with FERC that these route changes have caused only minor changes in potential impacts to the environment.

EPA also acknowledges that the applicant has provided more information and professional validation that horizontal directional drilling techniques will be feasible across the Hudson River.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions regarding this review or our comments, please contact Lingard Knutson of my staff at (212) 637-3747.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Judy-Ann Mitchell". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Judy-Ann Mitchell, Chief
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch